

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for treating a bone condition associated with excessive resorption or breakdown of bone tissue, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof FGF-8, or a FGF-8 agonist, wherein the FGF-8 comprises an amino acid sequence which is the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 2, or 3, wherein the FGF-8 agonist comprises an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3, and wherein FGF-8 or the FGF-8 agonist is administered in an amount effective to treat the bone condition in the patient.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein FGF-8 is administered, ~~and wherein the amino acid sequence of FGF-8 is SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.~~

3-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the FGF-8 agonist is administered, and wherein the FGF-8 agonist comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 98% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the FGF-8 agonist is administered, and wherein the FGF-8 agonist comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3 with up to 10 conservative amino acid substitutions.

7. (Currently amended) A method for increasing or maintaining bone density, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof FGF-8, or a FGF-8 agonist, wherein the FGF-8 comprises an amino acid sequence which is the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 2, or 3, wherein the FGF-8 agonist comprises an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3, and wherein FGF-8 or the FGF-8 agonist is administered in an amount effective to increase or maintain bone density in the subject.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein FGF-8 is administered, ~~and wherein the amino acid sequence of FGF-8 is SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.~~

9-10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the FGF-8 agonist is administered, and wherein the FGF-8 agonist comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 98% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the FGF-8 agonist is administered, and wherein the FGF-8 agonist comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3 with up to 10 conservative amino acid substitutions.

13.-18. (Canceled)

19-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) A method for treating osteoporosis, osteopenia, bone defects, or osteogenesis imperfecta, comprising:

administration to a subject in need thereof FGF-8, or a FGF-8 agonist, wherein the FGF-8 comprises an amino acid sequence which is the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 2, or 3,

wherein the FGF-8 agonist comprises an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3, wherein FGF-8 or the FGF-8 agonist is administered in an amount effective to treat the osteoporosis, osteopenia, bone defects, or osteogenesis imperfecta in the subject.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein FGF-8 is administered, ~~and wherein the amino acid sequence of FGF-8 is SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.~~

24-25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the FGF-8 agonist is administered, and wherein the FGF-8 agonist comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 98% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the FGF-8 agonist is administered, and wherein the FGF-8 agonist comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, or 3 with up to 10 conservative amino acid substitutions.